

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monday February 12, 2007
Red Lion Colonial Inn - Helena, MT
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Officers

☒ John Prinkki, President
☒ Cynthia Johnson, 1st Vice President
☒ Mike McGinley, 2nd Vice President
☒ Allan Underdal, Fiscal Officer
☒ Greg Chilcott, Urban Representative
☒ Doug Kaercher, Past President

District Chairs

☒ Richard Dunbar, District #1
☒ Mark Rehbein, District #2
☒ Donald Reiger, District #3
☒ Harvey Worrall, District #4
☒ Arnie Gettel, District #5
☒ Carl Seilstad, District #6
☒ Maureen Davey, District #7
☒ Tom Lythgoe, District #8

☒ Bernie Lucas, District #9
☒ Paddy Trusler, District #10
☒ Judy Stang, District #11
☒ Tom Rice, District #12

Association Representatives

☒ Leo Gallagher, Attorneys
____ Lisa Kimmet, Clerk and Recorders
☒ Marilyn Hollister, Clerks of Court
____ Richard Brown, Coroners
____ Gary A. Olsen, Magistrates
____ T. Gregory Hintz,
Sheriff & Peace Officers
☒ Jennifer Reinhardt, Treasurers
☒ Diane Inbody,
School Superintendents

Others Present:: Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Patti Grosfield, MACo Finance Officer; Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner; Ken Weber, Jefferson County Commissioner; Randy Grow, Nationwide Retirement Services.

1. President Prinkki called the meeting to order. Roll call and introductions were conducted.
2. Approval of Minutes: September 24 and 28th, 2006

It was noted that Carl Seilstad and Harvey Worrall's names were misspelled and asked that they be corrected. Greg Chilcott moved and Allan Underdal seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion carried.

3. Finance Report – Allan Underdal, MACo Fiscal Officer

Allan reported that 61% of the projected revenues have been received. Directory sales are underway, which will increase revenues. Interest income is up, and 50% of the JPA/JPIA transfers have been completed.

Expenses are on target at 58% of budget. Richard Dunbar asked for clarification on the Health Care Trust (HCT) line item showing \$551 in expenses. It was explained that this is the allocation of travel to HCT meetings, such as the recent Trustee retreat at Seeley Lake. It was also noted that MACo receives a sponsorship fee from the HCT of \$1.00 per member per month, and we have received approximately \$6,000 in revenues that offset those costs.

Richard expressed concern regarding the assumption of the HCT into MACo. It was his understanding that the HCT was not to cost MACo. He requested that staff provide the minutes of the HCT discussions regarding the creation and assumption of the Trust.

Greg Chilcott moved and Harvey Worrall seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented. Motion carried.

4. Executive Committee Member Resignation

Past President Doug Kaercher has accepted a position with the State Tax Appeal Board, and will be resigning his Commissioner seat as of March 1, 2007, creating a vacancy in the Past President's position on the Board. The MACo bylaws state that a vacancy in the Past Presidency shall be filled by the appointment by the President of the next most immediate Past President. President Prinkki appointed Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner to the position of Past President, to complete the unexpired term of Doug Kaercher.

5. Legislative Update - Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director

The MACo Resolutions/Bill status report was reviewed. The following bills were discussed:

HB 551 – Precommitment Costs: Commissioner Kennedy, Chair of the MACo Health & Human Services Committee explained the intent of this bill is to cap the costs that counties pay for precommitments.

HB 529 – Reduce the Business Equipment tax from 3% - 2% and exclude the first \$100,000: Harold explained that the mechanism for reimbursements to local governments for lost revenues needs to be rolled into the entitlement share so growth can be applied. Rep. Lake has asked for MACo's support of the bill.

Alan Underdal moved and Mark Rehbein seconded to support HB 529. Motion passed.
Tax Increment Districts (TIF): Harold reported that there will be a focus on TIF bills. Senator Elliot will be introducing a bill at the request of Dan Bucks, Director of the Department of Revenue, to remove the 95 mills. This bill has the support of the Governors office.

Sales Tax: Senator Essman has begun drafting a bill that will provide significant increases in revenues to local governments. It will eliminate the 95 mills and reallocate revenues.

SB 78 – Stream Access at Bridges: Discussion was held regarding this bill. It was noted that the membership is not in full support, and Board members were advised that Commissioners need to focus on the right of way issue only. It was requested that copies of the bill be available for the membership at the Thursday legislative meeting.

SB 216 – Transport of the mentally ill: Senator Weinberg has agreed to drop the bill, based on an agreement to work with the Law Enforcement Academy to add a training component on the transport of the mentally ill. MACo's Risk Management staff has formed a working group to develop model policies.

SB 339 – Annexation: Tom Lythgoe, Jefferson County Commissioner, requested MACo's support on the bill. Harold noted that Lewis and Clark County has requested that MACo remain neutral on the issue. Following discussion, Tom Lythgoe moved and Maureen Davey seconded that MACo support SB 339. Motion failed. It was noted that the Jefferson County Commissioners may bring this issue to the membership at the Thursday Legislative meeting to request their support.

6. Newly Elected Officials/Commissioner Certification Evaluations

The evaluations of the recently held training were reviewed. The results and comments were very positive.

7. Other Business

Nationwide Retirement Solutions: Randy Grow was introduced. Randy informed the Board that Nationwide currently provides Section 457 programs for 37 Montana counties. He has a booth in the lobby where he will be conducting education and recruitment activities all week. Randy noted that this program provides an additional revenue stream for employees at retirement, and also provides revenue for the Association.

NACo Prescription Drug Card: Harold reported that Montana is the first state to be approved for a State Association card. The cards are being printed and will be available very soon.

Governor's DES Conference Planning Committee Vacancy: President Prinkki reported that there is a vacancy on the DES Planning Committee, and he is accepting names from those interested in serving, so he can appoint a MACo representative to the Committee.

Growth Policy Survey: Harold reported that a good response has been received on the recent survey. Follow up is being conducted for those counties who have not responded.

MACo Evaluation Committee: Cyndi Johnson reported that the Evaluation Committee had met and decided to combine the Commissioners and Elected officials surveys, and would be using Survey Monkey. They will review the questions and possibly develop some new ones. The intent is that the new format will promote a higher response. Cyndi will also be making a presentation regarding the proposal at the membership meeting.

Inmate Medical: President Prinkki reported that he and the MACo Executive Director had visited with Jim Sawyer at NACo regarding inmate medical costs. Correctional Risk Services offers two types of coverage – claims management and review, or an excess medical insurance policy. Board members were encouraged to review the information to evaluate if this service could help them with their inmate medical costs.

Leave Extension: Director Blattie reported that he has excess annual leave that he will be unable to use prior to March 31 due to the Legislative Session. He requested that the Board extend his leave forfeiture date.

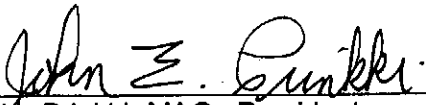
Cyndi Johnson moved and Greg Chilcott seconded to allow the Executive Director waiver of the deadline for the use of vacation leave. Motion carried. Executive Director Blattie thanked the Board for their consideration.

8. June Board Meeting Date

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, June 27, 2007. There will also be a joint meeting on that day with the JPA/JPIA Trusts for final budget adoption.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved this 27th day of June, 2007.


John Prinkki, MACo President


L. Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director